Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 6, 2001 TO AUGUST 10, 2001

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Building Permits ($ millions)	June			Canadian building permits rose 0.2% in June, led by a 6.5% increase in residential permits. For the first 6 months of this year, Canadian residential and non-residential permits are up 9.1% and 16.6% respectively from the same time last year. Building permits in Alberta fell by 16.6% in June after rising 12.3% in May. Both residential permits (-7.0%) and non-residential permits (-28.0%) decreased. Permits declined by 20% in Edmonton and 15.2% in Calgary. Year to date, Alberta building permits are up 0.9% from the same period last year.
Alberta	426.9	-16.6%	-8.4%	
Canada	3,283.8	0.2%	6.0%	
Help Wanted Index (1996=100)	July			In July, the help-wanted index for Canada fell 1.1% continuing a downward trend that began in November 2000. The index declined in seven provinces with the largest declines in Quebec (-5.2%), Ontario (-4.6%), and Nova Scotia (-1.8%). The largest gains were in New Brunswick (1.8%) and PEI (0.8%). While Alberta's help wanted index fell 1.1% in July, it is still 10.2% higher than in July 2000.
Alberta	184	-1.1%	10.2%	
Canada	155	-3.7%	-10.9%	
Urban Housing Starts (thousands)	July			In July, total housing starts in Canada fell 13.4% to 151,800 units from 175,300 in June, while urban housing starts fell 16.0% to 129,300. Housing starts climbed in five provinces with the largest percentage gains in PEI (200.0%), Manitoba (53.3%), Saskatchewan (26.3%). Provinces experiencing declines included Ontario (-28.3%), Newfoundland (-8.3%) and Alberta (-8.3%). Alberta's housing starts decreased to 22,000 in July, up 10.0% from July 2000 and 7.7% year to date.
Alberta	22.0	-8.3%	10.0%	
Canada	129.3	-16.0%	-10.5%	